United Nations

Daily Highlights

Department of Public Information • Central News Section • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/1689
19 July 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, says it will consider sending mission to Mozambique to discuss implementation of General Peace Agreement and holding of October elections; stresses need to demobilize troops and form new Defence Force.

+ As new Government of national unity takes office in Rwanda, Secretary-General appeals for assurances of safety for returning refugees; UNHCR says exodus into Zairean town of Goma has stopped.

+ Fifth Committee recommends General Assembly establish Office of Internal Oversight Services headed by Under-Secretary-General.

+ Secretary-General condemns attack on UNOSOM II peace-keepers in Mogadishu, citing worsening security situation in Somalia.

+ Secretary-General expresses horror after bomb explosion in Buenos Aires causes many casualties.

+ Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq says his country has cooperated with international community in implementing Security Council resolutions; alleges that sanctions regime is being maintained illegally to prop up oil prices.

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The Security Council today said it would consider sending a mission to Mozambique to discuss how to ensure full and timely implementation of the General Peace Agreement, and the holding of national elections on 27 and 28 October. In a statement read out by its President, Jamsheed Marker (Pakistan), the Council welcomed the progress made in implementing the Agreement, particularly in the electoral sphere. However, it stressed that there should be no further delay in demobilizing forces and forming the new Mozambican Defence Force. It was essential that demobilization be completed by 15 August and that the difficulties of forming the Defence Force be addressed quickly and flexibly.

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The Council reiterated the need to extend civil administration throughout Mozambique. It again called on all parties, especially the Mozambique National Resistance Movement (RENAMO), to allow unimpeded access to areas under their control to all political forces, in order to ensure political activity throughout the country. The Council said it would endorse the election results provided the United Nations reported them as free and fair, and reminded all Mozambican parties of their obligation to fully respect them.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today appealed to the new Government in Rwanda to reassure people who had fled the country that they would be safe when they returned home. The Secretary-General also asked Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni to urge the new Government to make a major effort towards national reconciliation. The broad-based Government of national unity was sworn in earlier today in Kigali, at a ceremony attended by Special Representative Shahryar Khan and the Force Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR), General Romeo Dallaire.

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said the massive influx of refugees into the Zairean town of Goma had stopped yesterday, after Rwandese Patriotic Front (RPF) forces were deployed at the border. However, 100,000 people had arrived in Bukavu, and there were reports that another 400,000 were flooding into Uvira from southwestern Rwanda. The latest exodus would bring the number of refugees in Zaire, Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania to over 2.1 million.

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The General Assembly would establish an Office of Internal Oversight Services headed by an official with the rank of Under-Secretary-General, under a draft text approved today by the Fifth Committee (Administrative and Budgetary). The Office would take over the functions of the Office for Inspections and Investigations created last year by the Secretary-General and would help him fulfil internal oversight duties. Operating independently under the Secretary-General, its tasks would include monitoring, internal auditing, inspections and investigations.

The United States Representative, Madeleine Albright, called the approved text "a victory for taxpayers around the world". The Office would have access to documents and protect whistle blowers, she said. Its establishment was the greatest step towards making the United Nations more efficient and accountable.

The Committee also recommended that the Assembly authorize the Secretary-General to commit up to $140 million gross monthly for the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) for 1 October to 30 November 1994, if continued beyond September. It would authorize up to $25 million for liquidating the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) from 16 November to 31 January, and an extra $10 million for the United Nations

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Observer Mission in Liberia (UNOMIL) for six months from 22 April.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has condemned an attack yesterday on peace-keepers serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). Two Malaysian troops were killed and two others were seriously injured in the incident, which took place in Mogadishu.

The Secretary-General said it was unpardonable that the attackers should turn against those who had come to help them. The incident underscored the degradation of the security situation on the ground and the need for a critical review of United Nations operations in Somalia, he concluded.

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** Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has condemned the bomb explosion in the Argentinian capital of Buenos Aires yesterday. He expressed horror at the attack, which killed and injured scores of people. A United Nations spokesman said the Secretary-General had consistently denounced such acts of terrorism and he condemned this one in the strongest possible terms.

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The Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq, Tariq Aziz, today said that the maintenance of Security Council sanctions against his country was immoral, unjust, and contrary to international law. He told correspondents at Headquarters that Iraq was cooperating with the international community by meeting its obligations under Council resolutions. That cooperation had been recognized by the United Nations Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), but had been denied by the United States. He contended that the sanctions were being maintained in order to support oil prices -- on behalf of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait -- by keeping Iraqi exports off the market.

Mr. Aziz rejected yesterday's statement by United States Permanent Representative Madeline Albright that there was only scant evidence of Iraq's readiness to meet its obligations. He said that the statement contained contradictions and falsifications, and that a significant number of Council members had recognized Iraq's progress in implementing the resolutions in question. He went on to say that the sanctions regime had led to malnutrition and higher mortality rates in Iraq, and alleged that the country was being starved so that Saudi Arabia and Kuwait could pay their bills.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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20 July 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ United Nations to launch inter-agency appeal for Rwanda on 22 July, and host pledging conference in Geneva on 2 August; Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs to visit country to assess needs on ground.

+ UNHCR coordinates humanitarian airlift to aid more than 2 million Rwandan refugees; United States, Germany and United Kingdom provide aircraft.

+ Member States owe United Nations almost $2.9 billion as of 15 July; $837 million owed to regular budget and $2.03 billion to peace-keeping.

+ Secretary-General appeals to Member States to pay peace-keeping arrears now, saying operations face financial collapse; implements emergency measures to reduce or delay expenditures.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says reduction in UNOSOM II troop strength feasible despite deteriorating security situation in Somalia; sees diplomacy as better option than military action.

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The United Nations will launch a consolidated inter-agency appeal for Rwanda on Friday, Under-Secretary-General Peter Hansen announced today. He told correspondents at Headquarters that there would be a pledging conference for donors in Geneva on 2 August. Mr. Hansen, who heads the Department for Humanitarian Affairs, said he would be going to Rwanda to help assess the needs on the ground. He would also seek to impress upon the Rwandan Government the importance of creating the right conditions for refugees and displaced persons to return home.

It was difficult to assess the situation because of the speed with which events were unfolding, Mr. Hansen continued. Some 500,000 people had been killed out of a total Rwandan population of 7.8 million; one third of the remainder had fled to neighbouring countries and another third were internally

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displaced. Hundreds of thousands of people had recently arrived in the Zairean towns of Goma, Bukavu and Uvira, and there was insufficient food in the pipeline. As a result, food was being diverted to the region from as far away as Angola and Sudan.

The United Nations had made a tremendous effort to cope with the crisis, Mr. Hansen said, citing the work of the World Food Programme (WFP), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). He noted that the allocation of $50 million dollars from the emergency revolving fund was being depleted, and stressed the need for a generous response to the upcoming appeal.

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The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) is coordinating a massive humanitarian airlift to bring relief supplies to over 2 million Rwandese refugees in an operation similar to the one conducted for Sarajevo. The supplies will initially be funneled through the airport in the Zairean town of Goma, which has been swamped by some 1 million refugees in the largest and swiftest exodus the UNHCR has ever witnessed. The United States, Germany and the United Kingdom have so far offered planes for the airlift.

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As of 15 July, Member States owed the United Nations a total of $2.87 billion, according to the latest update on the Organization's financial situation. Of that amount, $837 million was for assessments for the regular budget and $2.03 billion was for peace-keeping operations.

The total of outstanding regular budget contributions had declined from $950 million as of 30 June, largely as a result of a payment made by Japan. The United States -- the largest debtor -- owed $530 million to the regular budget and $750 million to the peace-keeping budget, while the Russian Federation owed some $540 million in peace-keeping contributions.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has appealed to Member States to promptly pay any outstanding contributions to the United Nations peace-keeping budget. In a letter to the President of the Security Council dated 7 July, he said substantial payments were urgently needed if operations were not to face financial collapse within weeks. At the start of July, several major missions, including the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) and the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (UNOMOZ), had no funds in their accounts. The United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL), the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM), and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) were in a similar position.

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The Secretary-General noted that the United Nations needed at least $200 million each month to sustain peace-keeping operations, and a further $100 million to reimburse troop-contributing countries. The situation was so grave several emergency measures had been taken: funds were being borrowed from some operations to meet the immediate needs of others; all operations were to reduce or delay expenditures as much as possible; procurement and recruitment were being postponed except where urgently required; and troop contributors were being asked to show forebearance. He pointed out that Member States had a collective responsibility to finance the operations which they had mandated, and reiterated that they should honour their commitments now.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has said it might be feasible to start reducing the number of troop serving with the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II). In a report dated 18 July, the Secretary-General said he would review the Operation's strength and had asked his Special Representative to assess the prospects for national reconciliation. Although progress had been made in rebuilding national institutions, especially the police and judicial system, the security situation had deteriorated significantly, especially in Mogadishu. It was not clear whether UNOSOM II's contributions to security justified its size and cost. Through no fault of its own, the Operation had been unable to deal with the effects of inter-clan fighting. Its success in that area had been achieved through diplomatic rather than military means.

The Secretary-General said he would send a special mission to Somalia to discuss troop reductions with his Special Representative and the UNOSOM II Force Commander. The mission would pay special attention to the views of humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organizations. He stressed that the security of UNOSOM II and humanitarian personnel would remain a high priority, particularly in light of the recent ambush of peace-keepers.

The Secretary-General went on to say that the international community could not be expected to indefinitely support the reestablishment of a peaceful and self-reliant Somalia. He urged Somali leaders to redouble their efforts towards national reconciliation on a basis of pluralism and mutual tolerence.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1691
21 July 1994

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends mandate of expanded UNOMIG for six months; urges comprehensive political settlement, respecting Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity; says progress would allow reconsideration of possible peace-keeping force in Abkhazia.

+ Special Representative Akashi says demonstrations by displaced persons are preventing UNPROFOR from carrying out mission in Croatia; Sarajevo airport closed after five aircraft hit by ground fire.

+ Fears of epidemic rise as UNHCR confirms 111 cholera deaths at Rwandan refugee camp in Goma; suspected cases of bubonic plague and measles reported in other camps.

+ International Law Commission adopts draft proposal that would empower proposed international criminal court to judge crimes against peace and security of mankind.

+ Secretary-General congratulates United States on twenty-fifth anniversary of Apollo II moon landing.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of an expanded United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) to 13 January 1995. In unanimously adopting resolution 937 (1994), it authorized an increase in the Mission's strength up to 136 military observers, with appropriate civilian staff. The Council mandated UNOMIG to: monitor and verify the implementation of the Agreement on a Cease-fire and Separation of Forces signed in Moscow on 14 May; observe the operation of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) peace-keeping forces; verify that troops and heavy military equipment were no longer in the security or restricted-weapons zones; monitor the withdrawal of Georgian troops from the Kodori valley to beyond the boundaries of Abkhazia, Republic of Georgia; and investigate violations of the Agreement.

The Council called on the parties to intensify efforts to achieve a comprehensive political settlement under the auspices of the United Nations,

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with the assistance of the Russian Federation as facilitator and the participation of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE). It welcomed the parties' wish that the United Nations continue to be actively involved in the pursuit of a political settlement. The Council stressed the importance of agreement on the political status of Abkhazia, respecting fully the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Georgia. Progress on a settlement would allow the Council to reconsider the possible establishment of a peace-keeping force in Abkhazia.

The Council stressed the need to prevent any resumption of hostilities. It expressed concern at the humanitarian situation, and the possible dangers if the large numbers of refugees and displaced persons could not return home safely. The Council asked the Secretary-General to establish an arrangement on the respective roles and responsibilities of UNOMIG and the CIS peace-keeping force. It also asked him to report within three months on the situation in Abkhazia and on the implementation of relevant agreements.

* * *

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi said today that demonstrations by the Association of Displaced Persons had prevented the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) from carrying out its mission in Croatia. At a press conference in Zagreb, Mr. Akashi said the demonstrators had blocked all agreed crossing points into the United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs). Their actions had tarnished Croatia's international image and delayed the return of displaced persons by raising tensions and damaging UNPROFOR's ablility to keep the peace.

Mr. Akashi noted that United Nations agencies had helped thousands of displaced persons to return to their homes in Croatia. He reminded the Croatian authorities that they had requested UNPROFOR's presence, and said that troop-contributing countries could not understand why their personnel were being denied supplies and harrassed.

Meanwhile, Sarajevo airport was closed today after shots were fired at relief flights approaching the city. Five aircraft were hit, and one United Nations staff member was wounded in the leg.

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Fears of a severe cholera epidemic among Rwandan refugees in Zaire increased today as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) confirmed 111 deaths from the disease in Goma. The 200,000 children under five years of age in the town are particularly vulnerable to cholera. Suspected cases of bubonic plague and measles were reported in other refugee camps.

The UNHCR humanitarian airlift into Goma is being restricted by capacity of the airport, which can handle no more than 16 flights during daylight

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hours. The agency is trying to reduce the turn-around time for planes from 3 hours to 30 minutes. Twenty WFP trucks are expected to arrive in Goma today -- the first overland convoy to reach the town.

Meanwhile, UNHCR reported that 2,000 people were leaving southwestern Rwanda for Zaire every hour, and at least 250,000 refugees were already in Bukavu. The World Food Programme (WFP) estimates there are now some 4 million Rwandan refugees, including 1.4 million in Zaire, 1.1 million in Burundi and 400,000 in Tanzania. Another 700,000 people were displaced within Rwanda.

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The International Law Commission, meeting in Geneva, has adopted a draft proposal that would empower an international criminal court to judge crimes against the peace and security of mankind. The proposed court would have jurisdiction over cases of aggression, crimes against humanity, and serious violations of international humanitarian law during armed conflicts. It would have extensive powers concerning genocide, as the 1948 Genocide Convention provides that persons can be tried in the territory where the crime was committed or by an international tribunal. The Security Council, which is responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security, would be able to refer specific cases to the court under the United Nations Charter.

The International Law Commission is composed of 34 experts representing the world's main legal systems. It was established by the General Assembly in 1947 to help develop and codify international law. Its recommendations will be referred to the Assembly later this year.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has congratulated the United States on the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Apollo II moon landing, calling the feat "one of mankind's great achievments". In a message to President Bill Clinton, he described the landing as a testament to humanity's determination to strive for knowledge and understanding of outer space.

The Secretary-General said the United States had played a central role in transforming outer space from an arena of competition into one of cooperation, which could be a model for peaceful relations among States. The United Nations would continue to play an important part in encouraging and coordinating such cooperation, and ensuring that the practical applications of space technology would benefit all mankind.

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United Nations

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22 July 1994

FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General launches inter-agency appeal for $435 million to aid victims of Rwanda crisis; says international community must respond urgently to genocide caused by hunger, thirst and disease.

+ Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs to leave New York tonight to assess relief operations in Rwanda and surrounding region; to chair pledging conference in Geneva on 2 August.

+ Economic and Social Council urges Secretary-General to further policy measures on sexual harassment in Secretariat; recommends General Assembly act on raising UNHCR Executive Committee membership to 50.

+ General Committee recommends that General Assembly include item on observer status for Sovereign Military Order of Malta in current agenda.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today launched a United Nations inter-agency appeal for almost $435 million to aid the victims of the crisis in Rwanda. The international community had been confronted with tribal genocide for months, and now it must respond urgently to genocide caused by hunger, thirst and disease. Millions of refugees and displaced persons needed relief, and the situation was beyond the resources and capacity of United Nations humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organizations. "Without substantial financial support from the international community, we shall not be able to meet the humanitarian challenge that faces us," he said.

The immediate priority was to take care of the refugees who had left Rwanda, and to provide humanitarian assistance for those who were still in the country, the Secretary-General continued. He announced that the Security Council would soon approve the creation of a tribunal or commission for Rwanda to examine the question of genocide.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today announced that he was immediately sending Peter Hansen, Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, to evaluate relief operations in Rwanda and the surrounding region. Mr. Hansen will ensure that coordination mechanisms are in place, and will discuss the means for ensuring humanitarian deliveries with the Rwandan Government.

Mr. Hansen will depart this evening, accompanied by senior officials of United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations working in the region. He will visit the Zairean towns of Goma and Bukavu, followed by the Rwandan capital Kigali. He will then travel to Geneva to chair a pledging conference on 2 August.

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The Economic and Social Council has urged the Secretary-General to further develop comprehensive policy measures to prevent sexual harassment in the Secretariat. In one of two drafts on the advancement of women adopted yesterday, the Council urged the Secretary-General to increase the proportion of women in the Secretariat, especially in senior-level positions. By the second draft, it supported the request of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women for three-week meetings in 1995 and 1996. The Council also decided that the Commission on the Status of Women would examine at its next session the possibility of introducing the right to petition to the Convertion through an optional protocol.

The Council also adopted a draft recommending that the General Assembly take a decision at its next session on the question of increasing the membership of the Executive Committee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) from 47 to 50 States.

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The General Committee today recommended that the General Assembly include in its agenda for the current session an item entitled "Observer Status for the Sovereign Military Order of Malta in the General Assembly". It also recommended that the item be considered directly in plenary. The representative of Italy said the Order was a unique non-governmental organization that currently maintained diplomatic relations with 64 Member States, and thus should be granted observer status.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1693
25 July 1994

MONDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Under-Secretary-General Hansen visits Rwandan refugee camps in Goma and Bukavu to assess humanitarian situation; UNHCR reports steady increase in number of relief flights, while WFP says food pipeline is solid for next three months.

+ United Nations reports pattern of increased military activity by Bosnian Serb forces in recent days; shelling resumes in Dubrovnik area after two-year lull; Ukrainian aircraft hit by gunfire while approaching Sarajevo airport.

+ Special Representative Akashi condemns continuing human rights violations in Serb-held areas in Bosnia; appeals for immediate and unconditional release of all civilians illegally detained.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, recommends six-month extension of UNIFIL; says Force contributes to stability in southern Lebanon, despite being prevented from implementing its mandate.

+ Economic and Social Council adopts 15 proposals put forward by Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and 14 decisions recommended by Human Rights Commission.

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Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Peter Hansen was due to arrive in the Rwandan capital Kigali today after assessing the situation in the Zairean towns of Goma and Bukavu, according to a United Nations spokesman. Mr. Hansen, who was accompanied by Special Representative Shahryar Khan and officials from United Nations agencies and non-governmental organizations, was due to meet tomorrow with representatives of the Rwandan Government.

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that the volume of humanitarian flights into Goma was increasing steadily, while the World Food Programme (WFP) described the food pipeline for refugees as "solid" for the next three months.

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Bosnian Serb forces have engaged in a pattern of increased military activity in the last few days, according to a United Nations spokesman. Thirty-six shells were fired in the Dubrovnik area -- the first such incident in two years -- while shelling of Government positions north of Tuzla was also reported. In addition, an anti-aircraft gun was located in the heavy-weapons exclusion zone around Gorazde, and the Bosnian Serb authorities were warned that action would be taken if the gun were not moved.

Meanwhile, an aircraft landed without incident at Sarajevo airport today, and a second was due to arrive this afternoon, the spokesman said. On Friday, a Ukrainian troop transport was hit by 20 bullets fired from Bosnian Serb positions and one soldier was slightly injured. The United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) received assurances from the Bosnian Serb authorities that the incident would not be repeated, and was considering a full-scale resumption of flights into the city tomorrow.

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Special Representative Yasushi Akashi has condemned continuing violations of human rights in Serb-held areas of Bosnia and Herzegovina. In a statement issued on Friday, he said the illegal detentions, forced labour and expulsions of Muslim civilians were a flagrant breach of internationally recognized human rights and humanitarian principles. In recent days, 139 Muslim civilians, mostly women and children, had been forcibly moved from the Bijeljina area to the confrontation line near Tuzla. At least 70 Muslim men had been arrested in Bijeljina and were being held illegally, while a further 100 civilians had been detained in Rogatica on 4 July. In addition, there were disturbing reports of human rights violations in the Banja Luka area.

Mr Akashi said it was important at this critical time that all parties adhere to internationally recognized humanitarian principles, especially where they concerned ethnic minorities. He appealed to the Bosnian Serb authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all civilians illegally detained and to stop forcibly moving civilians. Those released should be allowed to return to their homes or to proceed to any other destination of their choice, he added.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council extend the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for six months to 31 January 1995. In a report dated 20 July, he said the Force contributed to stability and the safety of the population in the south of the country, which remained tense and volatile. The extension had been requested by the Lebanese Government.

The Secretary-General noted that Israel continued to occupy parts of southern Lebanon -- despite the Council's repeated calls for its withdrawal -- and that UNIFIL continued to be prevented from implementing its mandate. The

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Lebanese Government considered the occupation to be the major obstacle to national recovery, and saw withdrawal as the only way to stop the violence in the south.

Despite a lack of progress in ongoing peace talks, the Secretary-General said he was seriously considering reducing UNIFIL's strength because of a shortfall in assessed contributions. The Force was owed some $254 million, and barely had enough money in its accounts to cover three weeks' expenses. He went on to say that he had initiated a study to determine how UNIFIL could perform essential functions if its strength were to be reduced.

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The Economic and Social Council today adopted 15 proposals put forward by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, several of which concerned the Ninth Conference on the Preventment of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders. The Conference will begin in Tunisia next April. The Council said it should consider the need to sensitize the media to the results of graphic portrayals of violence, and the effects of sensational news coverage on the fairness of trials. The Conference should also consider a draft code of conduct for combating corruption of public officials, address new forms of organized transnational crime, and consider terrorism as one of the most dangerous forms of crime.

The Council also adopted 14 decisions on the recommendation of the Human Rights Commission. It extended the mandates of the Special Rapporteurs on the human rights situations in the Sudan and Iraq for one year.

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United Nations

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26 July 1994

TUESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Secretary-General, in letter to Security Council, calls attention to difficulties facing UNPROFOR; says initiative by Contact Group could have serious implications for United Nations involvement in former Yugoslavia.

+ WFP plans food distribution network in Rwanda to encourage refugees to return home; seeks $76 million to feed 1.7 million refugees in Zaire for three months.

+ Secretary-General says Security Council should remain ready to increase strength of UNAVEM II, despite lack of progress in Angola peace talks.

+ Secretary-General welcomes signing of Washington Declaration by Jordan and Israel; hopes breakthrough will accelerate Middle East peace process.

+ Special Rapporteur on human rights in former Yugoslavia calls on Bosnian Serb authorities to permit medical evacuations from Gorazde.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has written to the Security Council President calling attention to the difficulties facing the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR), whose responsibilities could be assumed by an international task force, according to Special Adviser Alvaro de Soto. He noted that the Force was deployed in isolated groups, was vulnerable, and depended on the cooperation of the parties on the ground.

Mr. de Soto pointed out that acceptance of the recent initiative by the Contact Group on the former Yugoslavia -- France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom and the United States -- would have serious implications for United Nations involvement in the region. The Secretary-General had thus decided to present a "refresher" on his thinking on the subject, before the Foreign Ministers of the Contact Group met later this month. He had not formulated any objection to the initiative, but felt that the Group should tackle the issue of implementation should its proposals be

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accepted. Nor had the Secretary-General recommended that the United Nations withdraw from the former Yugoslavia. He had, however, called attention to the incompatibility between the Force's responsibilities and the situation there.

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The World Food Programme (WFP) today said it was mobilizing and delivering food needed by Rwandan refugees in Zaire, and increasing efforts to distribute food inside Rwanda to encourage refugees to return home. The WFP plans to set up a base to store food in Gisenyi, Rwanda, and will set up distribution points for the refugees, in addition to its regular programme inside the country.

"We hope that when the refugees in Goma see that WFP is moving food through Rwanda and know that food is available inside the country, they will have the confidence to return home," said WFP Executive Director Catherine Bertini. "The best way to end this almost apocalyptic crisis is for people to go back to Rwanda."

The WFP has appealed for $76 million to cover the costs of 82,000 metric tonnes of food and related transportation costs for the 1.7 million refugees in Zaire for the next three months. To date, $23 million has been received. Meanwhile, the Programme has been procuring trucks to deliver the 600 metric tonnes of food needed each day in Goma.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has recommended that the Security Council remain ready to increase the strength of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) in the event of a breakthrough in the Lusaka peace talks. However, in a report dated 22 July, he said that progress in the talks had been limited despite intensive diplomatic efforts, and that it was difficult to be optimistic about the prospects for success. While the Angolan Government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) had agreed on the specific principles relating to national reconciliation, there had been no agreement on the modalities for their implementation.

Government and UNITA forces were currently engaged in stalemated battles in south-western and central Angola after fighting intensified last month, the Secretary-General noted. As a result, humanitarian deliveries had been suspended or reduced, and the situation was particularly precarious in the city of Kuito. The Security Council should press the parties to stop fighting immediately, to guarantee deliveries of humanitarian supplies, and to ensure the safety of relief workers.

The Secretary-General expressed hope that recent diplomatic initiatives, including that of South African President Nelson Mandela, would boost the peace process. If the Government and UNITA reached a comprehensive agreement, he would send an advance team to Angola to prepare further recommendations for the Council.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has warmly welcomed the signing yesterday of the Washington Declaration between Jordan and Israel, according to a United Nations spokesman. He applauded the statesmanship shown by King Hussein and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, which had led to the signing ceremony at the White House. The Secretary-General said he was very encouraged by the Declaration, and expressed the hope that it would accelerate the process of achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East.

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The Special Rapporteur on human rights in the former Yugoslavia has called on the Bosnian Serb authorities to permit the evacuation of seriously ill people in Gorazde. In the last six weeks, the authorities have refused to allow the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to conduct any medical evacuations from the pocket. As a result, 35 patients have been unable to receive vital medical attention. One has already died and others are rapidly deteriorating. Another 78 patients, whose cases are less urgent, are also awaiting evacuation.

The Special Rapporteur noted that the Bosnian Serb authorities were also preventing badly needed medical specialists from entering Gorazde. Calling attention to the fundamental human rights issues involved and to the life-threatening situation, he insisted that they reverse their position immediately.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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DH/1695
27 July 1994

WEDNESDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council, in Presidential statement, reiterates need to improve United Nations capacity for rapid deployment and reinforcement of peace-keeping operations; says lack of readily available equipment is major limiting factor.

+ General Assembly begins consideration of Agreement amending deep seabed mining provisions of Law of Sea Convention; United States says draft removes obstacles to widespread acceptance of Convention.

+ Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, says situation in Haiti has deteriorated as a result of actions by illegal government; cites human rights abuses following expulsion of MICIVIH and alarming humanitarian developments.

+ Special Representative Akashi requests meeting with Bosnian Serb leader amid growing tension in Bosnia; NATO aircraft provide show of force after UNPROFOR convoy hit by small arms fire.

+ Secretary-General asks UNDP Administrator to help ensure policy coherence and coordination in United Nations system; notes calls in Economic and Social Council debate for improvements in arenas of development and economic cooperation.

+ Kazakhstan signs safeguards agreement with IAEA relating to Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons; Agency to verify peaceful use of country's nuclear facilities and materials.

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The Security Council today reiterated the importance of improving the United Nations capacity for rapid deployment and reinforcement of peace-keeping operations, saying recent history demonstrated that such an effort was essential. In a statement by its President, Jamsheed Marker (Pakistan), the Council noted that the lack of readily available equipment was a major limiting factor in the timely deployment of troops. It stressed the need to urgently address that issue in the context of stand-by arrangements

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and more broadly. The Council was responding to the Secretary-General's report of 30 June concerning standy-by arrangements for peace-keeping.

The Council expressed gratitude for the Secretary-General's efforts in respect of stand-by arrangements. It welcomed the responses received so far from Member States, and the Secretary-General's intention to maintain a comprehensive database of the offers made, including technical details. The Council noted his view that the commitments made did not yet adequately cover the resources needed for future peace-keeping operations. It also noted that additional commitments were expected from other Member States, and welcomed the Secretary-General's call for all to participate in the arrangements.

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The General Assembly today began consideration of a draft resolution by which it would adopt the Agreement on the implementation of the deep seabed mining provisions contained in Part XI of the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea. By the terms of the draft, the Agreement would be interpreted and applied together with Part XI of the Covention as a single instrument, and, in the event of an inconsistency between the two, the provisions of the Agreement would prevail. The Convention on the Law of the Sea is expected to enter into force on 16 November.

The United States representative said her country would sign the Agreement and would apply it provisionally, pending its entry into force. She noted that four years of consultations had resolved outstanding issues relating to deep seabed mining and removed obstacles to widespread acceptance of the Convention.

The Agreement was the product of informal consultations on resolving problems regarding deep seabed mining provisions that had prevented most industrialized countries from becoming parties to the Convention. The Convention, adopted by the 1982 Third United Nations Conference on the Law of the Sea, deals with the use of oceans, including national sovereignty, exploitation of economic resources, navigation, dispute settlement and jurisdiction over the resources of the deep seabed.

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The situation in Haiti has deteriorated in the last month as a result of actions taken by the illegal government of Emile Jonassaint, according to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali. In a report to the Security Council dated 26 July, he said human rights abuses had continued since the illegal expulsion of the International Civilian Mission in Haiti (MICIVIH) on 5 July. Killings and assaults had been reported, and the locally recruited staff of international organizations were particularly sensitive to the continuing tension.

The Secretary-General described the humanitarian situation in the country as alarming, with the poorest sectors of the population suffering the most. Prices had risen sharply, the unemployment rate exceeded 50 per cent, and

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incidences of malaria, typhoid and other diseases were increasing. Fuel shortages made the distribution of goods difficult, and food supplies were short in urban areas.

Enforcement of Security Council sanctions against Haiti was being tightened, the Secretary-General said. France would suspend commercial flights to and from the country from 1 August, and up to 88 observers would soon be deployed in the Dominican Republic to monitor the border with Haiti, he noted.

* * *

Special Representative Yasushi Akashi has written to Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic requesting a meeting amid growing tension in Bosnia and Herzegovina, according to a United Nations spokesman. A United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) convoy was hit by small-arms fire from Bosnian Serb positions outside Sarajevo today, leaving two British soldiers wounded and a fuel truck destroyed. The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) responded to a request for a "show of force," but close air support was not required. Meanwhile, UNPROFOR closed the Butmir road after the Bosnian Serbs said they could no longer ensure the safety of vehicles travelling on it.

The spokesman said the number of cease-fire violations in Bosnia and Herzegovina had increased in the last 24 hours, while sniper fire had intensified in Sarajevo. Also today, two United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) employees and a Muslim woman they were escorting to Gorazde were detained by Bosnian Serbs. The UNHCR employees were told they could go free if they left the woman behind, but declined to do so. It was hoped that that situation could soon be resolved.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has asked the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), James Gustave Speth, to assist him in ensuring policy coherence and enhancing coordination within the United Nations system. The Secretary-General also gave Mr. Speth overall responsibility for assisting him in improving the coordination of operational activities for development, including the strengthening of the resident coordinator system. The UNDP is the largest provider of grant technical assistance in the United Nations system.

The Secretary-General decided to take that action after closely following the deliberations of the Economic and Social Council at its current session, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General noted a strong emphasis on the need to make the United Nations more effective in the arenas of development and international economic cooperation, as well as for improved coordination at the field level. The Secretary-General was also concerned about strengthening linkages between emergency assistance, rehabilitation and long-term development.

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Kazakhstan has signed a safeguards agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT). The agreement will permit the IAEA to verify that nuclear facilities and materials in the State will be used solely for peaceful purposes. The agreement will come into effect upon ratification by Kazakhstan.

The IAEA said its inspectors would regularly visit nuclear facilities in Kazakhstan to verify records on the whereabouts of nuclear material, check instruments and surveillance equipment installed by the Agency, and confirm physical inventories of nuclear materials.

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United Nations

Daily Highlights

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THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

+ Security Council extends UNIFIL mandate for six months to 31 January 1995; reiterates support for Lebanon's territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence; says States should not threaten or use force against other States.

+ General Assembly, by 121 votes in favour to none against, with seven abstentions, adopts Agreement amending deep seabed mining provisions of Law of Sea Convention.

+ Under-Secretary-General Annan reiterates need for prompt deployment of UNAMIR, saying United Nations is racing against time in Rwanda; berates Member States for woeful response to appeals for troops and equipment.

+ Under-Secretary-General Hansen says Rwandan Government will cooperate fully with humanitarian operations and efforts to encourage return of refugees.

+ Secretary-General sends special mission to Somalia to discuss reduction of UNOSOM II troop strength.

+ UNPROFOR Commander condemns Bosnian Serb attack on convoy near Sarajevo; say he would have sought NATO close air support without hesitation had suitable target been indentified.

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The Security Council today extended the mandate of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) for six months to 31 January 1995. It took that action, responding to a request by the Lebanese Government and the Secretary-General's recent report on UNIFIL, by unanimously adopting resolution 938 (1994). In his report, the Secretary-General said UNIFIL contributed to stability and the safety of the population in southern Lebanon, which remained tense and volatile. He noted that Israel still occupied parts of the country -- despite the Council's repeated calls for its withdrawal -- and that the Force continued to be prevented from implementing its mandate.

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For information media--not an official record

In a statement read out by its President, Jamsheed Marker (Pakistan), after the adoption of the resolution, the Security Council reaffirmed its commitment to the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and national unity of Lebanon within its internationally recognized boundaries. It asserted that any State should refrain from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any other State.

The Council also stressed the urgent need for implementation of resolution 425 (1978), which approved the Force's terms of reference and general guidelines, in all its aspects. It reiterated its full support for the Taif Agreement and for the continued efforts of the Lebanese Government to consolidate peace, national unity and security in the country, while successfully carrying out the reconstruction process. The Council also commended the Government for its efforts to extend its authority in southern Lebanon in full coordination with UNIFIL. It went on to express concern over the continuing violence in the area, and regret at the loss of civilian life, and urged all parties to exercise restraint.

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The General Assembly today adopted the Agreement on the implementation of the deep seabed mining provisions contained in part XI of the 1982 Convention on the Law of the Sea. The Agreement, which was intended to lead to universal acceptance of the Convention, will be interpreted and applied together with those provisions as a single instrument. In the event of any inconsistency, the provisions of the Agreement will prevail. The Assembly took that action by a vote of 121 in favour to none against, with seven abstentions (Colombia, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Russian Federation, Thailand and Venezuela).

The Convention on the Law of the Sea is expected to enter into force on 16 November, and the Agreement will be opened for signature tomorrow in the General Assembly Hall.

Following the adoption of the resolution, General Assembly President S.R. Insanally (Guyana) said wider participation in the Convention would not only result in preserving its integrity, but also serve to consolidate and strengthen its provisions.

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The Under-Secretary-General for Peace-keeping Operations, Kofi Annan, today reiterated that the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) must be fully deployed as soon as possible to end the tragedy there. He told correspondents at Headquarters that the United Nations was in a race against time, and that the death toll would mount steadily if Member States did not act to deploy adequately trained and equipped toops. He stressed that UNAMIR did not need anything that Member States did not already possess. Based on existing commitments, it was hoped that 3,000 troops could be deployed by the second half of August.

Prompt action to strengthen UNAMIR could have saved many lives, Mr. Annan continued. The Department of Peace-keeping Operations had appealed for troop

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contributions in May, but the response had fallen woefully short of needs. There were now only 550 troops on the ground -- two months after the Security Council had authorized a deployment of 5,500. Some Governments had offered troops without equipment, while others had offered equipment without troops. Matching the two was expensive and time consuming, as witnessed in the former Yugoslavia. Some Governments had insisted on payment for equipment on difficult terms, leading to protracted negotiation, while others had offered equipment which needed extensive servicing. The United Nations Secretariat was not blameless, as its administrative procedures were not entirely responsive to emergency needs.

States were suffering from "post-Somalia syndrome" and had been reluctant to get involved in Rwanda, Mr. Annan went on to say. However, in certain situations there was no choice between action and inaction. International peace and security were no longer threatened by nuclear war, but by ethnic and regional conflicts, which required prompt and effective action by the international community.

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Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Peter Hansen today left Nairobi for Geneva, having completed his mission to Rwanda. According to a United Nations spokesman, Mr. Hansen and Special Representative Shahryar Khan received all the commitments they wanted from the Rwandan Government regarding humanitarian operations in the country and measures to facilitate the return of refugees. Mr. Hansen emphasized that Government officials had been extremely cooperative. As a result, the United Nations emergency office will move its headquarters from Nairobi to Kigali.

Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) reported that 10,000 refugees a day were returning to Rwanda from Goma, bringing the total number of returnees to 50,000.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has sent a special mission to Mogadishu to discuss matters relating to the reduction of United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) troop levels with the Force Commander and Special Representative there. The mission, which was expected to arrive in Somalia today, will also meet with humanitarian agencies and non-governmental organizations regarding their work and security needs. The mission is being led by Major-General Timothy Dibuama.

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The Commander of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Lieutenant-General Michael Rose, has strongly condemned yesterday's attack by Bosnian Serb forces on a logistics convoy outside Sarajevo. One British soldier was killed in the incident and another was wounded. He said the assertion by the Bosnian Serbs that they had only

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attacked the convoy because they believed it to belong to the Bosnian Army was wholly worthless, given that they had later fired on a French military unit which was trying to recover vehicles.

Lieutenant-General Rose noted that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) had provided air cover for UNPROFOR yesterday, and stressed that he would have asked for close air support without hesitation had a suitable target been indentified. He said he would protest the incident in the strongest possible terms to the Bosnian Serb authorities in Pale.

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